	Name of Tea Estate	No. of workers affected:
3.	Kottamalai	
4.	Bonami	1650
5.	Vagamon	
6.	Thangamalai	
7.	Pasumalai	
8.	Granby	2500
9.	Mount	
10.	Koliekanam	
11.	Pullikaman	400
12.	Assam Brook Tea Plantation in Wayaned District	Not availabje.

(c) and (d) Government does not have any information on starvation deaths of tea workers.

(e) Government has appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. These Committees are expected to submit their reports by March, 2003.

Use of Nimesulide Drug

501. SHRIJANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRIRAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug Nimesulide has been cleared by Government for prescription to the patients;

(b) whether it is a fact that though Nimesulide is freely prescribed in the country, some medical experts still have some reservations about the safety of this drug, particularly among infants;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Nimesulide is still not licensed for use in certain developed countries like the USA, UK, Australia and New Zealand; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review its use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Market authorization/licensing of a product in a country depends upon submission of a specific application for such purpose.

As per available information, application for marketing of Nimesulide has not been made in USA, UK, New Zealand and Australia.

A detailed examination has been undertaken by an expert committee (Sub-Committee) of Drug Technical Advisory Board to deliberate on the issues concerning the safety of Nimesulide, including its use in children. More than 20 expert paediatricians across the country and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) were consulted. Majority of experts have confirmed the reliability of Nimesulide and no serious adverse reaction in children have been reported in the country.

Aids cases in Orissa

502. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 lakh people in the country await certain death, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, dated 11th December, 2002;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country stand second to South Africa in the list of nations whether AIDS has taken epidemic form;

(c) if so, the places in Orissa which are the vulnerable blocks; and

(d) the assistance rendered by the Centre to the State Government to control the incidents of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 1. Based on the HIV sentinel surveillance round 2001 it is estimated that 3.97 million persons in India are infected with HIV.

2. HIV is a virus, and like all viral infections, the HIV infection is a battle between the immune system and the invading virus. When the